



May 1997

Volume XXV Issue 5

Jim's Journal

Volume IV



Greetings out there in Radio Land. This past week with the nice weather has produced a bumper crop of sore muscles, trying to catch up with all those spring chores. If your a techno-nerd and didn't attend the Club meeting this month, shame on you! Mr. Mike Subonus, Science and Operations Manager of the National Weather Service in Indianapolis presented to us a mind blowing technical presentation of the Nexrad Weather radar system. This man truly knows his stuff. And the icing on the cake was our favorite Weather person, Sandy Thomson who explained how we finally managed to get a Nexrad system for our area. She then gave all of us some really great smelling pencils. It was rather an odd sight watching a room full of people smelling each other's pencils.

The May Radio Club Banquet is all in place now, I won't mention the names of all the "Old Timers" who will be speaking. But Mr. Bob Sievers, W9FJT is one of them. May 9, is the date. The Club will furnish the meat, which is Chicken, just remember to bring a covered dish and wear loose fitting clothes!

The April Fox hunt was run on Monday April 7. The foxes were Carl N9NRO and Dave, N9LOV. These clever Foxes were holed up

next to the suspended pedestrian bridge at Foster Park. The winning Hunters were Jim & Kim KB9DOT & DOS.

I just received the latest Club membership roster and a few of our regular members have yet to renew their memberships. I've noticed that these people haven't attended any of our recent meetings either. If there is a message here I'm not receiving it very well. I have heard stories from various sources (but nothing from the holdouts) that some them were unhappy with the meeting subjects and others were unhappy about the way Field day is being run, etc. Well, the buck stops here. The officers of the Club and I do try to please most of you. Believe me, its not an easy task and takes a fair amount of time and energy to do. So, communicate with us, give us ideas and most of all, and volunteer your help. If you are unwilling to do this, don't expect

Spring Banquet:

Friday

May 09, 1997

7:30 PM

The Good Shepherd
United Methodist
Church.

things to change to your liking any time soon.

This Month's bit of questionable wisdom: Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler. Happiness is merely the remission of pain

73's Jim K9OMA



April Minutes

1. The April meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 16 April, 1997. The meeting started at 07:30 p.m. and was hosted by President Jim Pliett. There were about 50 people in attendance.
2. Due to the length of the program, the Minutes and the Treasurer's report were not read.
3. Jim reminded everyone that the Spring banquet is May 9th, and as our special guests, we are expecting five old timers to attend.
4. Jim announced that the Whitley County Radio Club had considered our proposal to link their and our 440 MHz repeaters, and that their club had voted to accept the proposal. Whitley County Radio Club VP and trustee, N9WNH, was at the meeting and he gave us a few facts about their machine. At present the transmitter is a 7 watt Motorola unit., and they have a 7dbi antenna located at about 130

Fort Wayne
Radio Club
Since 1920

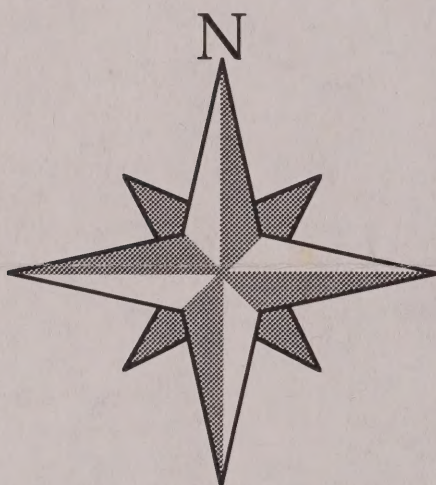
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feet. This system gives them coverage from the edge of Ft. Wayne to Pierceton. They are in the process of upgrading to a 100 watt transmitter. Stay tuned as this initiative progresses.

5. Following this short business meeting Jim turned the floor over to Channel 15 Weather Person Sandy Thompson, and to National Weather Service Science and Technology Officer Mike Sabonis who gave us an in depth briefing on the new Nexrad Weather Radar system being installed up in Noble County.



OLD TYME CHATTER

Starting to fill in the picture for this month, I asked myself, "Why do I spend time writing the "OTC?" At this moment I can not furnish an answer. Help! It appears that our hobby will disappear since our leader continues to sell off the space above. Perhaps some future date a copy of the Ham Splatter will be discovered an tell about the wonderful hobby we lost.

In a national Gallup Survey 105 adults 18 year and older were asked the first names and occupations of their great grandparents. Only 2 percent knew the names of all their great grandparents and more than 60 percent

did not know the occupations of any of their great grandparents. Could you qualify in the 2 percent? If not you better make a trip to our wonderful library.

I am sure KA9A, Bill Fageol would be a 2 percenter. This past month as I scanned the publication "Antique Week" I found a article with a picture of the "Fageol Truck Company. Well this must be KA9A's father KV4AD who we have qsoed several times. A phone call to Bill and he said no that was his grandfather. The Fageol Truck Co. was located in Kent, OH and it was noted that it was later sold and became the Peterbuilt Truck Co. I mailed the article and included a picture and a article about my father and his first car he built in 1894 He built a total of three.

Watching the news on the Floods of 1997 we remember first the 1913 flood. At that time I lived in the north part of Van Wert, OH. I remember my sister who was the long distance phone operator being picked up from our front porch by a dray wagon which took her to work. I was told the water was only ca. one foot in our location.

In 1937 some of the local FWRC numbers were deployed at different points along the Lakeside dikes for several days and nights to report any leaks in the dikes I was stationed with another ham with our radio on the front porch of a home located on the north side of river. Our equipment was old police radios, which were converted to 6 meters. The control station was located in the radio service department of the police station.

During this period five of our member which included W9AAI, Wade Pitcher and W9USU, Al Fritz along with several other hams were operating down on the Ohio River from a boat. You can read about it in the old QST's. Most of you can recall the 1982 flood. Interesting several years ago I wrote about a follow up of that operation. I was talking to a ham in I believe Turkey. He said he had operated here in Fort Wayne during the flood. I said I also worked at the Headquarters station.

He told me he was the radioman for the President during his visit of the flooded area.

Last month we mentioned "Slim." Slim is the name used for pirates who either do not have a call or use a fictional call. This month 2 are reported operating. OH0/OZ1WF on 80 and 160 meters. The real OZ1WF has not been on HF for years. Also a Slim using the call EY4AA/6 on 80 and 160.

Correction. The April issue of OTC gave K9UMQ's Company as "Promotion Co." I am sure Bill could have operated a company under that name. However his Company was "Pyromation Incorporated," on Industrial Road. where they manufacture Industrial Ovens and Controls.

HISTORY

In July and August 1907, issues of this magazine there was described the construction of a simple amateur station of that time. It consisted of a Ruhmkorff (induction) coil, a condenser and a spark gap for the transmitter, and a simple coherer-decoherer for the receiver -- the reason for the latter in place of a crystal being the coherer could be homemade, while the crystal could not; although, provided the mineral could be secured, the crystal set was the easiest to fashion. This article presaged a long series of detailed constructional treatments in Electrician & Mechanic and other magazines.

This same magazine also published in 1907 a table showing the relative performances of different types of transmitting and receiving equipment for that day.

73. W9TC

What is an Internet Gateway?

An Internet Gateway is a device that connects normal packet radio to the Internet.

What does an Internet Gateway provide to Packet Radio?

An Internet Gateway allows local users to access other AMPRnet Internet Gateways to connect to amateurs all over the world. You can also access many other services the Internet provides. The gateway will also allow Internet users, who are FCC licensed amateurs, to access the RF ports and connect to local packet stations. You do not need to use NOS software to access the Internet Gateway. However, running a version of NOS software would open up new possibilities of operation not possible with normal packet software.

What is AMPRnet?

The AMPRnet is the Amateur Packet Radio network that uses TCP/IP protocols that are the basis for communications between Internet stations. AMPRnet stations do not necessarily use the Internet to communicate with each other. Special software is required to use the TCP/IP protocols. KA9Q wrote the first port of this software for amateurs. Now there are many flavors of NOS: JNOS, WNOS, TNOS, NET, etc.

How does an Internet Gateway move data between the Internet and Packet Radio?

An Internet Gateway "talks" to the Internet using its native data transfer protocol called TCP/IP. It "talks" to standard amateur radio stations via a protocol called AX.25. It "talks" to amateur radio stations running a version of KA9Q NOS software using both protocols.

How is the Fort Wayne Internet Gateway configured?

The Fort Wayne Internet Gateway is a system of two cooperating computers named KF9UG.AMPR.ORG and GW.KF9UG.AMPR.ORG. KF9UG.AMPR.ORG is a 286-10Mhz PC with 3 TNCs attached and one serial line to connect to

GW.KF9UG.AMPR.ORG. The KF9UG.AMPR.ORG computer handles all the RF ports and maintains the packet radio BBS bulletins. GW.KF9UG.AMPR.ORG is a Pentium 150Mhz PC with one serial line to connect to KF9UG.AMPR.ORG and a 14.4bps modem that is used to connect to the Internet. The GW.KF9UG.AMPR.ORG computer handles all Internet communications, maintains Special Interest Group (SIG) messages, and is an FTP file server.

How do I connect to the Fort Wayne Internet Gateway?

Users connecting from the RF ports will first connect to KF9UG.AMPR.ORG. Users connecting from the Internet will first login to GW.KF9UG.AMPR.ORG. Users logging into GW.KF9UG.AMPR.ORG will need to have an assigned login and password in order to access any system other than itself. Users connecting to KF9UG.AMPR.ORG will not be prompted for a login and password unless they are TELNETing to it. The attached literature describes the RF ports available on KF9UG.AMPR.ORG and what frequency and callsign to use. It also lists the time of day the Internet Gateway is connected to the Internet.

How do I use the local Fort Wayne Internet Gateway to read and send standard packet bulletins and mail?

For the most part the same way you would do it on familiar BBS's with the exception that all mail is stored in mail areas. Your private mail is stored in your private mail area by your callsign (or what you provided when you logged in). When you first connect to the gateway system, you will be in your private mail area. Use the "areas" command to see what other areas are available. You can change mail areas using the "area <areaname>" command. To send a bulletin to "sale@allus", issue the command: "sb sale@allus". You will be prompted for the subject, then the body of the message. You may send a CONTROL-A at the beginning of any

line in the body to abort the message. After you send a line with "/EX", you will be asked if you want to send the message. Send a "Y" if you want to, a "N" if you do not. To send a personal message to "g0zzz@g0aaa.gbr.euro", issue the command: "sp g0zzz@g0aaa.gbr.euro". The rest of the procedure is the same as for a bulletin. All bulletins and personal messages will be held for sysop review and then forwarded via UHF or HF depending on the destination for the message.

How do I use the local Fort Wayne Internet Gateway to read and send Internet email?

The procedure to send and receive Internet email is very similar to sending and receiving personal packet messages described above. The main difference is how you address the message. For example, if you want to send an Internet email message to "tom@BobAndTom.com", issue the command: "sp tom@BobAndTom.com". The Internet Gateway will know that it is an Internet email address and will forward it there automatically. If Tom decides to reply to your message, the Internet and the Internet Gateway will automatically route the reply back to the Fort Wayne Internet Gateway and put it in your private email area. Tom might not be a good person to send an email message to, as he might use vulgar language that is unacceptable on Amateur Radio. Keep this in mind when choosing who you will be sending Internet email to. All is fair game on the Internet; not so for Amateur Radio. Please try to keep the language clean when the message might be transmitted over the airwaves.

Can I use the Internet Gateway for a personal Internet email address?

Yes. All users automatically have an Internet email address if they want to use it. There is no charge for this service. The Internet address you will have is: "user@kf9ug.centralnet.net" where you would replace "user" with your callsign. There are only a couple restrictions on

the use of this email address. Do not use it to send unsolicited business email, as this is frowned upon in the Internet world. Language that is forbidden by FCC rules regarding Amateur Radio is acceptable as long as you are not using the RF ports to send or read such email. If you find that you do not wish to receive email from someone on the Internet, the sysop can configure to reject email from this Internet email address.

Can I use the Internet Gateway to access the latest callsign information from the FCC?

Yes. After connecting to KF9UG.AMPR.ORG, issue the INETGW command to access the computer that attaches to the Internet. Then issue the "CALL" command. From there you can enter callsigns to be looked up from a database that is updated nightly from FCC records. When you are done, send a CONTROL-T, issue the exit command, or issue the bye command.

I've heard that Bloomington and Indianapolis have Internet Gateways; can I access them?

Yes. From F9UG.AMPR.ORG (the second system you log onto), you can issue either the K9IU or INDY commands to connect to them. From there, you can access the services they provide.

Would running NOS software enhance what I can do with the Internet Gateway?

Running NOS software on your own system greatly enhances what can be done through the Internet Gateway. Since running NOS software allows your station to run the same protocols as the Internet Gateway and the Internet, your station would be effectively part of the Internet. Things that you cannot do without NOS software include: perform file transfers to/from the Internet, send email directly from your station onto the Internet and to the packet BBS network, "pop" mail from the Internet gateway to your station, and connect to other Internet

sites without having to log into the Internet Gateway.

Wow, that sounds great. How can I obtain a version of NOS software that I can install on my system?

A good source for the source code and executable programs for JNOS is available on the Internet at this site: ftp.ucsd.edu/hamradio/packet/tcpip. JNOS is currently being developed and maintained through the Special Interest Group, NOS-BBS, and you can subscribe to this mailing list by sending a message to:

listproc@hydra.carleton.ca

To subscribe, send the line:

subscribe nos-bbs YourName
YourCallsign [if any].

Other sites that you can obtain NOS software are the ARRL (<http://www.arrl.org>) and TAPR (<http://www.tapr.org>) sites on the Internet.

Is it hard to setup NOS software?

Unfortunately, yes. TCP/IP and all the options the software provides can be daunting and it is not an easy task to get them all correct. The best advice I can give you is to find someone in your area or someone you can find on the Internet to help you setup your system before you put it on the air. A misconfigured NOS system can cause havoc on the airwaves. An excellent reference is the "NOS Intro" text by Ian Wade available from the ARRL publications department. The documentation for JNOS version 1.11x4, available from the UCSD FTP site mentioned above, is another good reference.

But once you get a NOS system running, the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks if you plan on using the Internet Gateway frequently.

What types of services are available with an Internet Gateway?

Telnet - capability to log into another machine to access the services that machine provides.

Ping - capabilities to see if another machine is online and can be contacted.

FTP - is a File Transfer Protocol that allows one machine to upload or download files to another machine.

SMTP - is a mail transfer protocol to send mail messages from one machine to another.

POP3 - is a mail transfer protocol where you can Pop mail from another machine.

Finger - is a protocol where information about another machine can be transferred to your machine.

Where can I find more information about Internet Gateways, AMPRnet, and NOS software?

A good source of information regarding AMPRnet and Internet Gateways is this FTP site: minnie.cs.adfa.oz.au and the URL: <http://minnie.cs.adfa.oz.au/Gateways>

A good source of information regarding NOS software is this FTP site: ftp.ucsd.edu/hamradio/packet/tcpip and this Website: <http://www.lantz.com/index.html>

A good source of information regarding setting up and running a NOS system can be found in the ARRL publication: "Nos Intro" by Ian Wade.

Special Note

Walter Johnson W9JMT is currently at:
Regency Place Nursing Home
6006 Brandy Chase Cove
PH 486-3001

Walter would like to have visitors. If you know Walter or have some spare time on your hands, why not stop by and pay him a visit. I'm sure he would be just delighted to have you visit.

For Sale

- 45-foot tower, TA33 JR Tri-Bander and TR44 Rotor. \$100.00 if you take down.
- Tri-Bander (disassembled) Make offer. Contact Dean Whitesel WA9RRY at 484-1850


Wanted

- 35-Foot aluminum tower. Contact Carl Rittenhouse (N9NRO) at 485-4012.

All ads will run on a month by month basis. Please advise me if you need your ad run more than one month or you wish to extend your ad another month. My phone number is (219) 492-2138.

Thanks and 73s,


Todd Hargis N9XRG



HOW ABOUT A TICKET FOR THE FWRC DAYTON HAMVENTION BUS TRIP. TICKETS ARE \$15.00 A PERSON. A GUARANTEED GOOD TIME. DON'T DELAY, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW BY CALLING KEVIN ADAM N9IWW AT 490-7312

Visit the Fort Wayne Radio Club on the World Wide Web
Address: <http://home.sprynet.com/sprynet/n9xrg/radio.htm>

Do you have an interesting article or cartoon which you can contribute to the Hamsplatter? Do you have some spare equipment collecting dust that you might want to sell? If so please contact me, Todd Hargis N9XRG, at 492-2138 (leave detailed message and phone number if no answer) or I can also be reached via e-mail at "hargis@mail.org".



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HAMSPLATTER



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